

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 7 are amended.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; specifically, the subject matter added to claims 6 and 7 by this Amendment was previously included in claims 1 and 3-5); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In section 2 on pages 2-4, the Office Action rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,742,408 to Funada et al. (hereinafter "Funada"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In section 4, on pages 5-9, the Office Action concedes that Funada does not disclose or teach printing the piece of copy forgery preventing image data wherein the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern. Claims 6 and 7 recite this subject matter.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6 and 7 as being anticipated by Funada be withdrawn.

In section 4 on pages 5-9, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,122,403 to Rhoads. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action correctly concedes that Funada does not disclose or teach printing the piece of copy forgery preventing image data wherein the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern. In order to overcome this deficiency in Funada, the Office Action relies on Rhoads.

Claims 1 and 3-5 recite that the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density. It is respectfully submitted that Rhoads does not disclose, teach or suggest this subject matter.

With respect to the first pattern, the Office Action relies on the master snowy pattern of Rhoads. See Office Action, page 6, third full paragraph. With regard to the second pattern, the Office Action relies on the bar code of Rhoads. See Office Action, page 6, third full paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the master snowy pattern and the bar code disclosed in Rhoads clearly do not have a density that is almost equal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 as being unpatentable over Funada in view of Rhoads be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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